

[*Translation*]**LPG connection priority to Members**

1132. SHRI KESRI LAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are extending the facility of priority quota of LPG connections for 1991 to the Members of the Tenth Lok Sabha who were also the Members in the Ninth Lok Sabha:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not allotting gas connections on the recommendations of such members of the Tenth Lok Sabha?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). The Members of 10th Lok Sabha, who were also members of 9th Lok Sabha will be given 48 connections minus the connections availed by them as a member of 9th Lok Sabha. This will be restricted to 12 connections per quarter per MP.

[*English*]**Profit of ONGC**

1133. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a declining trend in the profit earning by ONGC due to shortfall in production and rising operation costs;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to review the working of ONGC; and

(c) the details of the recommendations of the Working Group of Planning Commission for improving the production and profit of ONGC?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b): The Profit after tax of ONGC in 1990-91 was Rs. 1048 crores against Rs. 1624 crores in 1989-90. The reduction in profit was mainly on account of higher exchange loss, cost of dry wells written off, depreciation/depletion and operational expenditure. Working of ONGC is reviewed on a continuous basis.

(c) Planning Commission has not formed any working Group for this propose.

Quality control cell for coal

1134. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up a quality control cell to ensure quality coal to the consumers;

(b) if so, by what time the decision is likely to be taken in this regard;

(c) whether the Government also propose to invite private sector for setting up of coal washeries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) and (b). Coal India Ltd. already has independent Quality Control cells functioning in all its subsidiaries, who closely supervise and monitor quality of coal supplies. These cells are being further strengthened by CIL.

(c) and (d) No proposal to invite private sector for setting up coal washeries is under the consideration of the Government as on date.

Import of Petroleum products by Indian Oil Corporation

1135. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation

has been importing petroleum products;

(b) if so, the amount spent on such import during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have proposal to reduce the import of Petroleum products during 1991-92; and

(d) if so, the total amount spent on import so far?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Year	Amount in Rs./ Crores
1988-89	1482
1989-90	2202
1990-91	4555

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Petrol/Diesel Retail outlets and LPG Agencies in Himachal Pradesh

1136. SHRI D.D. KHANORIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petrol/diesel retail outlets and LPG agencies in Kangra and Chamba districts of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether the Government propose to allot more such agencies in the above districts;

(c) if so, the details thereof, district-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) As on date, there

are 20 petrol/diesel retail outlets and 11 LPG distributorships in Kangra and Chamba districts of Himachal Pradesh.

(b) to (d). Retail outlets and LPG distributorships are opened as per Marketing Plans and policy in force from time to time.

Policy reforms in Steel Industry

1138. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the policy reform in Steel Industry is long overdue;

(b) whether existence of the Joint Plant Committee has been a serious impediment in growth of Steel industry;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal for disbanding of the Joint Plant Committee;

(d) if so, the details thereof and time by which the proposal is likely to be implemented;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) whether the Government propose to have a national consensus in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Review of Policies in the Steel is a continuous process.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

Dual Pricing Policy of Fertilizers

1139. SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE: SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received representation for reviewing the